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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,530	08/01/2001	Frederic Louart	BIF103835	4810

466 7590 08/07/2002

YOUNG & THOMPSON
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET 2ND FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

EXAMINER

RHEE, JANE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1772	9

DATE MAILED: 08/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-9

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/890,530	LOUART ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jane J Rhee	1772	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 23-43 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 36-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 23-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 23-35, drawn to article.

Group II, claim(s) 36-43, drawn to method.

Evidence of lack of unity between the two groups is found in Rockney et al. wherein it is found to disclose the features of instant claim 23. As such, the special technical features of the claimed invention are not found to define a contribution over the prior art.

Applicant's election of Group I in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2 The term "irregularly" in claim 1 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "irregularly" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 23-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Rockney et al. (5660899).

Rockney et al. discloses a thermal protection sheath (col.1 lines 6-7) including a substrate (col. 4 line 2), and a reflective foil (col. 2 line 11-12) fixed to the substrate (col. 4 lines 46-48) being elastically deformable from a relaxed configuration (col. 2 lines 64-67), characterized in that the foil is pleated on the substrate in the relaxed configuration and the pleats in the foil are irregularly shaped and oriented (col. 3 lines 34-35).

Rockney et al. discloses that the substrate has an outside surface provided with openings and the foil is pleated in line with the openings (figure 3 numbers 18, 19, 13). Rockney et al. discloses that the foil is pleated inside the openings and form reserves of air (figure 3 number 13 and 18 col. 2 lines 52). Rockney et al. discloses that the substrate is made of textile and includes openings between textile threads and the foil is

pleated in line with the openings (col. 5 lines 1-2 and figure 3 numbers 18,19, and 13). Rockney et al. discloses that the substrate is formed of braided threads (col. 1 line 55-57). Rockney et al. discloses that the reflective foil is pleated between the knitted threads (col. 5 lines 7-11 and figure 3 numbers 13,18,19). Rockney et al. discloses that the substrate is a corrugated plastic material tube (col. 2 line 8). Rockney et al. discloses that the corrugated plastic material tube is slit longitudinally (col. 6 line 25). Rockney et al. discloses that the foil is pleated inside annular recesses of the corrugated tube (figure 3 number 18 and 13). Rockney et al. discloses that the substrate is tubular (col. 2 lines 7-13). Rockney et al. discloses that the substrate can be stretched elastically in the longitudinal or radial direction (col. 2 lines 64-67). Rockney et al. discloses that the reflective foil is woven from aluminized glass fibers (col. 5 line 11).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane J Rhee whose telephone number is 703-605-4959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-5408 for regular communications and 703-301-9999 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

Jane Rhee

Jane Rhee
August 1, 2002

Harold Pyon
HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

8/5/02